



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

52

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,386	11/15/2001	Joe Nathan Brown	AUS920010875US1	7328

7590 04/19/2005

Mr. Volel Emile
P.O. Box 202170
Austin, TX 78720-2170

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MAIKHANH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/998,386

Applicant(s)

BROWN ET AL.

Examiner

Maikhanh Nguyen

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-10,12,14-21,23,25-32,34 and 36-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-10, 12, 14-21, 23, 25-32, 34, and 36-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the communications: Amendment filed 12/07/2004 to the original application filed 11/15/2001.
2. Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-21, 23, 25-32, 34, and 36-43 are currently pending in this application. Claims 2, 11, 13, 22, 33, 35, and 44 have been canceled. Claims 1, 12, 23, and 44 are independent claims.

Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
4. Claims 1, 4-8, 12, 15-19, 23, 26-30, 34, and 37-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nielsen (U.S. 6,021,435 – issued 02/2000).

As to independent claim 1:

- a. Nielsen teaches a method of making links a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising the steps of:
 - (i) displaying the Web document (*e.g., retrieves a web page ... and displays it; col.4, lines 34-48*); and

- (ii) upon user command, highlighting the links (*e.g., when the user selects a particular text link anchor with mouse 44, the browsing system responds by attempting to retrieve the page pointed to by the link anchor ... all of the link anchor 202 are shown as underlined text; col.3, lines 41-48*).

As to dependent claim 4:

Nielsen teaches displaying the links in a different color (*e.g., displaying it in a special color different from the default text color; col.4, lines 40-42*).

As to dependent claim 5:

Nielsen teaches displaying the links using a larger font (*Fig.3*).

As to dependent claim 6:

Nielsen teaches displaying the links using a different font (*Fig.3*).

As to dependent claim 7:

Nielsen teaches emboldening the links (*e.g., the link anchors are depicted in a blue type; col.3, lines 46-49*).

As to dependent claim 8:

Nielsen teaches enlarging the font used to display the links including the links target area (*Fig.3*).

As to independent claim 12:

It is directed to a computer program product for implementing the method of claim 1, is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

As to dependent claims 15-19:

They include the same limitations as in claims 4-8, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

As to independent claim 23:

It is directed to an apparatus for performing the method of claim 1, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

As to dependent claims 26-30:

They include the same limitations as in claims 4-8, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

As to independent claim 34:

- a. It is directed to a computer system for performing the method of claim 1, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale. Additionally, claim 33 further recites “memory device and processor”.
- b. Nielsen teaches memory device (*e.g., a system memory 16; col.2, lines 63-64 and Fig.1A*) and processor (*e.g., a central processor 14; col.2, line 64 and Fig.1A*).

As to dependent claims 37-41:

They include the same limitations as in claims 4-8, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2176

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 3, 14, 25, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Nielsen** in view of **DeStefano** (U.S. 6,184, 885 – field 03/1998).

As to dependent claim 3:

- a. Nielsen does not explicitly teach “having the link flash.”
- b. DeStefano teaches having the link flash (*col.24, lines 19-28*).
- c. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the feature from DeStefano in the system of Nielsen because it would have provided the capability for visually distinguish highlighting information from unhighlighted information.

7. Claims 9-10, 20-21, 31-32, and 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Nielsen** in view of **Himmel et al.** (U.S. 6,211,874 – field 05/1998).

As to dependent claim 9:

- a. Nielsen does not teach “highlighting the links include the step of duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.”

- b. Himmel teaches highlighting the links include the step of duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area (*col.3, lines 40-64*).
- c. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the feature from Himmel in the system of Nielsen because it would have provided the capability for allowing multiple links to be selected without having to backtrack to the page that contains multiple selections.

As to dependent claim 10:

- a. Nielsen does teach when a link is selected, its corresponding link in the web document flashes or is emboldened or is displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font (*Fig.3; col.3, lines 46-51/ and col.4, lines 37-42*). However, Nielsen does not explicitly teach “a duplicated link”.
- b. Refer to discussion of claim 9 above for rejection of “a duplicated link”.

As to dependent claims 20-21, 31-32, and 42-43:

They include the same limitations as in claims 9-10, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

- 8. Applicant’s arguments filed 12/07/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

- a. Applicant argues that *the Examiner conceded that Nielsen does not teach 'highlighting links by a user' ...Applicants respectfully disagree.* (Remarks, page 12, last para.)
- b. Response to Applicant's arguments and after further review of the claimed limitations in light of the prior art, the examiner has determined that the previously cited base reference does fully meet the claim limitations as set forth supra. The rejection of claim 1 contains a detailed mapping of each element in the claim with its equivalent component taught in Nielsen's prior art.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bates et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,745,227 issued: Jun. 1, 2004
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 5:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Maikhanh Nguyen
April 7, 2005



JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER